

## Success in court reorganization requires ideas from all involved

By Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver

**M**y colleagues on the Supreme Court have given me the opportunity to lead the Court and the judiciary through the next stages of court reform. I am honored and willing to accept this important responsibility, and deeply appreciate their expression of confidence. In the past few weeks, I have received numerous letters of congratulations, along with many bouquets and plants. I am grateful for the words of encouragement and am impressed by the concern for the future of Michigan's court system held by so many individuals within and outside of the judiciary.

The Supreme Court, in response to its constitutional duty to supervise Michigan's courts, has pledged to develop a court system that is effective, timely, just and without prejudice or bias. Significant progress has been made toward this goal with the help of dedicated judges and court staff, and with the cooperation of the Executive and Legislative branches of government, state and local. The Supreme Court will continue to put all citizens and their needs, both business and personal, first in this effort.

*See SUCCESS, page 2*



The Michigan  
Supreme Court's  
goals for the  
judiciary:

*Fairness*  
*Accessibility*  
*Accountability*  
*Effectiveness*  
*Responsiveness*  
*Independence*

### Inside This Issue

National Center offering free help to improve public access to courts	2
Kalamazoo "drug courts" provide alternative to prosecution	3
Michigan Judicial Institute embraces distance learning	4
Changeover	5
Administrative Update	6
Grant Update	9
Court Calendar	10

## Success in court reorganization requires ideas from all involved

(Continued from page 1)

Much remains to be done regarding the family division of circuit court, which began operation a year ago. The Court will work to ensure that all matters involving families and children are addressed with common sense in a comprehensive and practical manner.

Essential to court efficiency is the ability of the courts to communicate among themselves, with the other branches of government, and with the public. Toward that end, the Court will strive to complete a statewide judicial information network to link all trial courts by computer with the Supreme Court.

I invite all those who have contributed to court reform, and those who have not thus far, to provide ideas and energy as we progress toward the completion of this effort begun by the Supreme Court, Legislature and the Executive. We know the process will succeed when the participants are motivated by service to the public.

### Michigan Supreme Court REPORT

*Michigan Supreme Court Report* is published by the Michigan Supreme Court.

#### **Chief Justice**

Elizabeth A. Weaver

#### **Justices**

James H. Brickley  
Michael F. Cavanagh  
Marilyn Kelly  
Clifford W. Taylor  
Maura D. Corrigan  
Robert P. Young, Jr.

#### **Director, Office of Chief Justice**

Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn

#### **Supreme Court Counsel**

Janet Welch

#### **State Court Administrator**

John D. Ferry, Jr.

#### **Public Information Officer**

David Gruber  
Michigan Supreme Court  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517/373-0129

#### **Publications Coordinator**

Ann Tschirhart

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Linda Clewley

For information regarding changes of address or employment opportunities, contact Brenda Underwood, SCAO, at 517/373-9231.

## Access to Justice

# National Center offering free help to improve public access to courts

**F**ree technical assistance to courts on methods of improving public access is being offered by the National Center for State Courts.

Recent public opinion polls conducted or reviewed by the NCSC have revealed that the public's image of state courts is of an institution that provides, at best, only limited access to the general public. Courts are viewed as being costly to use, having little or no empathy for the difficulty many users face in dealing with the court process, slow to reach decisions, and indifferent to enforcing orders and judgments. Additionally, many of those polled felt that courts treated people differently based on race and economic status.

The technical assistance program, offered by the NCSC's Court Services Division (CSD), incorporates six major areas of public access:

**Location** — not only the location of the court structure itself, but also the location of various facilities and services within the courthouse.

**Physical Structure** — encompasses compliance with ADA standards, security and providing clearly marked courtrooms and offices.

**Procedures** — includes removing the "mystique" of court proceedings by conducting proceedings so all participants understand what is transpiring and providing court documents in easy-to-read formats.

**Language** — qualified court interpreters should be available at every hearing and trial in which a non-English speaker is a participant. Signage within the courthouse should be multi-lingual, and court staffs who speak foreign languages should be available in areas of high public contact.

*See NATIONAL CENTER, page 9*

# Kalamazoo “drug courts” provide alternative to prosecution

By Margie Good, Management Analyst, SCAO  
and Tammy Woodhams, Community Corrections Director

**K**alamazoo’s Ninth Circuit Court, in cooperation with the local prosecuting attorney’s office and community corrections office, operates specialized drug docket programs — commonly known as “drug courts” — for selected nonviolent substance abusing defendants. These programs are designed to provide early intervention through judicially supervised treatment, case management services and drug testing to insure offender accountability, as well as increase the recovery and successful rehabilitation of addicted offenders.

The programs offer an element of diversion from prosecution as an incentive for defendants to engage in a recovery program. Prosecutorial review and screening criteria are used to determine program eligibility. The programs identify offenders with substance abuse problems that have contributed to the offender’s criminal behavior. Defendants must consent to the drug court treatment program as an alternative to traditional processing.

Participants who complete the intensive program have their charges dismissed, which prevents costly incarcerations. Participants who do not complete the program must go through traditional prosecution. There have been few problems in successfully prosecuting those offenders who have not completed the program.

Key components of the Kalamazoo programs include:

- frequent and intermittent drug testing;
- biweekly status review hearings;
- close supervision and accountability to the court and the community;

- inclusion of the judicial process as an equal partner in the treatment process, which also includes — and holds accountable — offenders and their families;
- employment and/or education requirements;
- swift and certain graduated sanctions and incentives;
- participation in recovery and support groups;
- provision of a continuum of treatment options;
- maximum use of restorative justice efforts, such as community service and restitution, and linkages between the criminal justice system and the health care community.

The Kalamazoo drug courts launched a women’s substance abuse diversion program in 1992, followed by a men’s substance abuse diversion program in 1997. A program for juvenile offenders was implemented in 1998. To date, the diversion programs have provided services to over 610 men, women and juveniles. Approximately 120 participants have successfully graduated from the men’s and women’s programs and many are still in the treatment phase.

These programs have proved effective in reducing drug dependence and criminal recidivism. This translates into significant savings of tax dollars through reduced costs of incarceration in prisons and jails, juvenile detention centers and foster care services, and long-term medical costs for drug-exposed babies. The programs also provide assistance to offenders in regaining custody of their children, reuniting with their families, and developing employment skills to become productive members of the community.

---

*Kalamazoo has been designated as a Mentor Drug Court by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the Drug Court Program Office at the U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the Mentor Drug Court Network is to foster the development of educational and training resources on drug courts at the local, regional and state level to assist jurisdictions planning to implement or enhance a drug court.*

*For further information contact Tammy Woodhams, Community Corrections Director, at 616/388-3675, or Margie Good, SCAO-Central, at 517/373-5596.*

# Michigan Judicial Institute embraces distance learning for judicial branch

By Vickie Eggers, Distance Learning Specialist  
Michigan Judicial Institute

Approximately 4,000 employees participate yearly in the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi) on-site seminars at various locations throughout the state. As the number of court employees continues to grow, so does the challenge of providing timely training and quick access to up-to-date information. The MJi is ready to meet that challenge.

In an effort to increase learning opportunities, provide greater access to needed information and serve increasing numbers of court employees, the MJi has chosen to go the distance — distance learning that is. By using technology, the MJi can timely provide more information to more people in an on-demand environment.

So what is distance learning? The first form of distance learning was the printed word. With the invention of the printing press, people could receive printed pages of information in far away locations. The printed page could be reproduced in quantities that allowed distribution to larger numbers of people in a timely manner. Each “new” technology — radio, television, computer and internet — have allowed us to capture and communicate information in greater volumes and at faster speeds.

I recently heard a statement on *National Public Radio* that a citizen living during the time of Thomas Jefferson would, in a lifetime, deal with the same amount of information that today would fill up only one issue of the *New York Times*. Today, the threat of information overload is a reality. Hectic schedules and job responsibilities battle against the training time needed to cope with the overload.

So how can MJi, as a training institute, meet these challenges? The answer is by incorporating technology and distance learning into its curriculum.

**Compact Disc-interactive (CD-i)** technology uses a CD that is specially formatted for operation on a CD-player (similar to a VCR player), rather than on a computer. CD-i is a multimedia technology that incorporates full motion video, audio and graphics and allows the user to interact with a video presentation. The CD-i format was chosen by the MJi because it is effective, user-friendly, “plug-and-play” equipment; unlike a CD-ROM, it requires very little technical support.

The process for developing a training CD-i begins by bringing together a team of content-experts to design a training script. The MJi and the content expert committee then work with a CD-i vendor to enhance the script with multimedia components. The final script is then produced for distribution.

The first CD-i produced through the joint efforts of the Michigan Court Support Personnel Training Consortium and the MJi, *I’m Sorry, I Can’t Give Legal Advice*, was awarded the 1998 National Association of Court Managers Justice Achievement Award. Also available is *Your Guide To Accessing Michigan Courts*. Titles currently in development include: *DUI Repeat Offender Legislation*; *The Michigan Court Rules: A Guide For Michigan Court Support Personnel*; and *Personal Protection Orders*. The MJi is currently considering development of an ethics disc for court personnel.

### GRANT-RELATED WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Check out these web sites for grant and technical assistance information:

#### Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

[www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm](http://www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm)

#### National Criminal Justice Reference Service

[www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)

#### Drug Courts Program Office

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo)

#### National Association of Drug Court Professionals

[www.drugcourt.org](http://www.drugcourt.org)

See MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, next page

## Michigan Judicial Institute embraces distance learning

(Continued from previous page)

There are presently thirty regional CD-i Court Training Centers with CD-i players. Another ten centers will have CD-i installed this spring and forty-one circuit courts will be provided with CD-i players in early summer. Court employees who wish to view CD-i titles should contact the regional CD-i Court Training Centers to schedule viewing times. A list of courts with CD-i capabilities will be listed on the MJI web site as installation is completed.

In addition to the CD-i format, some of the training will be reproduced into a CD-ROM format.

**Web-based delivery:** The world wide web offers opportunities for learners to access information upon demand. Information can be accessed through on-line computers from work or home at the learners convenience. Information can be viewed while on-line or the learner can print off the pages to be read at the learner's convenience.

The MJI web site, which is part of the Michigan Supreme Court web site, contains information on the MJI mission and overview, publications, training calendar, 1998-99 course catalogue and staff contacts. The publications pages include some full-text copies of benchbooks published by the MJI.

A web-based training program on ethics is under development. The MJI is using a template designed by the New Mexico Judicial Education Center (<http://www.wipl.unm.edu/jec/home.html>). With permission, the MJI is tailoring the template for use by Michigan courts. This introductory MJI training segment will focus on campaign ethics and is viewed as the first in a series. The ethics template is presently under review by a legal team and should be available on the MJI web site later this year.

The MJI is presently restructuring the State Judicial Institute Library (over 2,000 pieces) in preparation for publication and use on the web site. Titles are

being entered into a searchable database for easy access and cataloging. Once the project is complete, web-based users will be able to view titles and summaries of printed documents, videos, CD-ROMs and computer disks. Users will be able to request specific library titles while on-line. The project should be completed and available to users on the MJI web site in March of this year.

**Teleconference Opportunities:** The MJI is installing desktop video conferencing equipment in each of the four regional administrative offices — Detroit, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant and Gaylord — and at the MJI. With desktop video conferencing equipment, users can see and talk to each other and work together on documents or files using desktop computers networked by ISDN phone lines. Possible uses of desktop video conferencing at these sites includes Supreme Court updates, legislative updates, regional administrator meetings, conference planning sessions, training and staff development, data/records review, and individual tutoring/mentoring.

The MJI's distance learning staff is researching information and designing a database of sites throughout the state that have teleconference capabilities. Information relating to the site location, type of teleconferencing technology, contact person, user fees, availability for outside use, and number of participants able to be served is being collected. The database will be available for those individuals who wish to use teleconferencing opportunities. The possibility of using teleconferencing capabilities to deliver MJI seminars is under consideration for the 1999-2000 training schedule.

---

*For information on distance learning projects at MJI, contact Vickie Eggers. PH: 517/334-7805. To find MJI on the Court's web site, direct your browser to: [www.supremecourt.state.mi.us/courts/overview/mji.htm](http://www.supremecourt.state.mi.us/courts/overview/mji.htm)*

## Changeover

### ELECTIONS:

**Weaver, Elizabeth A.**, unanimously elected chief justice by her peers, effective 01/06/99.

### APPOINTMENTS:

**Young, Robert P., Jr.**, appointed from Court of Appeals to Supreme Court, effective 01/03/99 to succeed Conrad L. Mallett, Jr., resigned.

**Wilder, Kurtis T.**, appointed from C22 to Court of Appeals, effective 12/30/98 to succeed Myron Wahls, deceased.

**Zahra, Brian K.**, appointed from C03 to Court of Appeals, effective 01/01/99 to succeed Maura D. Corrigan, elected to Supreme Court.

**Collins, Jeffrey G.**, appointed from C03 to Court of Appeals, effective 01/11/99 to succeed Robert P. Young, Jr., appointed to Supreme Court.

**Pasula, Angela**, appointed to D05, Berrien County, effective 02/22/99 to succeed David Peterson, resigned.

### RESIGNATIONS:

**Mallett, Conrad L., Jr.**, resigned from the Supreme Court effective 01/02/99. Justice Mallett had served since his appointment to the court on 12/28/90. He served as Chief Justice from 1997-1999.

**Peterson, David M.**, resigned from the 5th District Court, Berrien County, effective 01/02/99. Judge Peterson had served since his election to the court on 01/01/85.

### DEATHS:

**Lutz, George D.**, retired Lenawee County Probate Judge, passed away January 18. Judge Lutz served the probate court from 1961 until December, 1982.



## ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

The administrative mailings will arrive under separate cover.

**Supreme Court Orders** — **1998-3** — Family Division of the Circuit Court; Support Payments; **98-18** — proposed amendments of Rule 803A of the MRE and Rule 5.972 of the MCR-MRE 803A Hearsay Exception; Child's Statement About Sexual Act; Rule 5.972-Trial; **1998-4** — Sentencing Guidelines; **98-31** — amendment to Rule 6.425 of the MCR -Sentencing; Appointment of Appellate Counsel; Appointment of Chief Judges of Michigan Courts; **1998-5** — Chief Judge Responsibilities; Local Intergovernmental Relations; and Appointment of Chief Judge Washtenaw County Trial Court 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court.

**Attorney General Opinions** — #7000; 7001; and 7002.

Interest Rates for Money Judgments Table from January 1, 1987 - January 1, 1999

**Letter from Sandi Hartnell** — regarding threshold changes for selected misdemeanor and felony offenses, to be distributed to all circuit and district judges and court administrators, district court magistrates, and county clerks.

**Letter from Sandi Hartnell** — regarding range of civil fines and cost for first-time civil infractions, to be distributed to all district and municipal court judges, court administrators, magistrates and clerks. (Note: This was e-mailed on 1/7/99, and this version has a revised page one of the attached chart.)

**Employment Opportunities:** United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Court Administrator/Clerk of Court - #99-1; Bay County FOC Office, Family Counselor; 8th Circuit Court, Juvenile Court and Youth Service Bureau, In-Home Care Probation Officer; 36th District Court, Senior Secretary; 88th District Court, Alpena County, Probation Officer

LEIN News Bulletin November/December 1998

## Administrative Update

### Court employee surveys due February 5

The 1999 Court Employee Compensation Survey and Court Employee Demographics Survey questionnaires were recently mailed to all chief judges. The deadline for return of the questionnaires is February 5. Prompt return of the questionnaires is necessary to ensure timely publication of the survey information. If you have any questions or have not received a survey questionnaire, contact the Human Resources Division at SCAO-Central. PH: 517/373-9525.

### New magistrates required to complete training

All new magistrates must complete a statutorily required training program before conducting informal civil infraction hearings. This training program is administered by the MJJ and consists of two phases. The first phase involves completion of a self-instructional training package, radar ride-along and one-day mentor visitation. After completion, the magistrate receives provisional authorization to conduct informal hearings.

The second phase of the training process is attendance at the yearly New Magistrate Seminar. Permanent authorization to conduct informal civil infraction hearings is then granted by the state court administrator.

This year's New Magistrate Seminar is scheduled for March 24-26 at the Sheraton Hotel, Lansing. New magistrates must have completed Phase I of the training process 30 days in advance of the seminar, or by February 24, in order to be eligible to attend the 1999 seminar. New magistrates completing Phase I requirements after the February 24 deadline will receive provisional authorization to conduct informal hearings that will extend until the March 2000 seminar.

For additional information, contact Cathy Cecot, 517/334-9384, or Cynthia Kruska, 517/334-8620.

### Domestic violence benchbook now available

*Domestic Violence Benchbook: A Guide to Civil and Criminal Proceedings* has been published by the MJJ. This reference work addresses Michigan law governing domestic violence in the three courtroom contexts where it is most likely to be at issue: criminal proceedings; personal protection actions; and divorce and child custody proceedings. The benchbook also covers firearm restrictions arising from criminal and personal protection proceedings, and provides general information about the dynamics of domestic violence.

The MJJ has distributed one copy of the *Domestic Violence Benchbook* to each Michigan judge, friend of the court office, district and circuit court probation office, all county clerks, circuit court administrators and district court magistrates and administrators. To obtain additional benchbooks, courts should complete the order form that was distributed with each volume, or contact Sheila Kallish, MJJ, 517/334-7805.

---

## Administrative Update

### Chief judges, administrators urged to check e-mail

Chief judges and court administrators with internet access are requested to regularly check for e-mail from the SCAO. If circumstances prevent this regular “look up” they should place the computer installed in their courts by the SCAO in 1998 within the appropriate office where this can be done regularly.

Last year, every chief judge in Michigan was provided with a computer and internet access through the SCAO office of automation. Many chief judges regularly accessed the internet to communicate with colleagues and to exchange information with the SCAO. Others have placed the computer with their court administrator for the purpose of regular internet access and communication.

In 1999, SCAO will e-mail more of the materials it currently mails or faxes to chief judges and court administrators. Not only will costs for postage, paper, and telephone lines be reduced, but the information will potentially arrive more quickly.

### MJI to provide PPO training for court support staff

Court support personnel who process personal protection actions will benefit from an innovative training program being prepared by the MJI. The program consists of approximately two hours of training on an interactive compact disc (“CD-i”), which will be distributed to each circuit court in late spring.

The training will address the law governing PPOs as it affects the duties of court support personnel, as well as some of the customer service questions that commonly arise in cases involving domestic violence. After participating in the training, court support personnel should be able to answer common questions about PPOs without giving legal advice, and understand some basic techniques for dealing with emotionally charged situations.

In addition to an interactive compact disc and supporting written materials for the training audience, the MJI will provide a CD-i player, television monitor and video cart to participating courts that do not already have this equipment. Chief judges, court administrators and court staff acting as training facilitators will have several opportunities to become familiar with the training materials and CD-i equipment prior to distribution of the CD-i; these informational sessions will be sponsored by the MJI at times and places to be announced later.

Courts desiring to participate in this training program should contact Mary Lovik at the MJI. PH: 517/334-7805. EMAIL: [lovikm@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:lovikm@jud.state.mi.us).

Funding for the PPO training program for court support personnel is provided under a grant awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and administered by the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

#### Address Corrections

All court staff should forward address and phone number corrections to:

Brenda Underwood  
SCAO  
PO Box 30048  
Lansing, MI 48909

[underwoodb@jud.state.mi](mailto:underwoodb@jud.state.mi).

## ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

The items listed here have been sent under separate cover since the previous issue of the *Michigan Supreme Court Report* to the groups indicated.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — NCSC/ICM Civil Mediation/Pro Se Litigation Seminar, faxed to chief circuit and probate judges, county clerks, and administrators, 11/30/98.

**From Sharon K. Deja** — Grievance Record Reports Due 1/15/99, mailed to all FOC's, chief circuit court judges, presiding judges of family division, and circuit and family division administrators, 11/30/98.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Financial Report for 1998 Due 4/15/99, mailed to all judges, 12/11/98.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Statement of Matters Undecided (MCR 8.107), mailed to circuit, district, probate and municipal judges, 12/11/98.

**The Pundit** — mailed to all circuit judges and circuit court administrators, 12/30/98.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Robert Young, Jr. Appointment to Supreme Court, faxed to all chief judges, 12/30/98.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — New Chief Justice Weaver, faxed to all chief judges, 1/6/99.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Civil Fines & Costs, e-mailed to chief district, circuit, and probate Judges and court administrators, 1/7/99.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Nat'l Ass'n for Ct Management (NACM) 1999 Mid-year Conference, e-mailed to all chief judges, 1/10/99.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Funding, e-mailed to eligible circuit courts; faxed to all circuit courts, 1/14/99.

**From John D. Ferry, Jr.** — Drug Case Fund & Drunk Driving Case Fund Report, mailed to circuit and district chief judges and circuit and district court administrators, 1/15/99.

## Administrative Update

### Use correct form for family division caseload data

The State Court Administrative Office is in the process of revising caseload reports for all courts. Until the project is completed, caseload data for family division matters should be reported on the same forms used prior to implementation of the family division. With the implementation of the family division, different court or county clerk staff may now be responsible for compiling data and completing the caseload report forms.

The SCAO will continue to compile and publish annual court statistics for circuit courts, including family division, and for probate courts.

Courts should review 1998 caseload reports to ensure that family division cases are being counted and reported on the proper form. Courts should also review the process used for compiling and reporting 1999 data to ensure that reporting is accurate. Discrepancies in 1998 data should be reported to SCAO by contacting Marge Bossenbery at (517) 373-0382.

### FOC Statistical Report due February 15

In October of 1998 the foc Statistical Report, SCAO Form 41 dated 5/97, was mailed to all friend of the court offices. **All 1998 statistical information must be submitted to the Friend of the Court Bureau no later than February 15.**

If expenditure and revenue data will not be available from your funding unit until after the deadline, please submit the SCAO 41 form by the February 15 deadline and attach a memo from the funding unit that indicates when the data will be submitted. The remainder of the statistical report must be submitted as soon as the information is available.

Friend of the court offices that do not submit SCAO Form 41 by the deadline may be listed as "failed to report" on the Annual Statistical Report. If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact Lesley K. Allen at 517/373-9295.

### Dispute Resolution Task Force Report received

In April 1998 the Michigan Supreme Court appointed a 39-member task force to provide recommendations for guiding the further development of alternative dispute resolution in the trial courts. The Michigan Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Task Force Report, released on January 21, contains a comprehensive set of court rule proposals and recommendations for developing, implementing, and monitoring ADR services in the trial courts.

The Report will be sent under separate cover to chief judges. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting Doug Van Epps, SCAO-Central. PH: 517/373-4839. EMAIL: [vanepspd@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:vanepspd@jud.state.mi.us).



## Grant Update

**Drug Courts Program Office (DCPO)** — Grant application kits for FY 1999 have been sent to state court agencies. Drug court grant applications will be due at the Drug Court Program Office on March 1. To obtain a drug court grant application kit, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. PH: 800/851-3420.

Courts requiring technical assistance in submitting a drug court grant application should contact the DCPO, US Department of Justice, 810 7th St., NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20531. PH: 202/616-5001. Web: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo). Assistance is also available by contacting: Caroline S. Cooper, Director, OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse & Technical Assistance Project, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016-8159. PH: 202/885-2875. Web: [www.american.edu/justice](http://www.american.edu/justice).

**Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)** — Details are begin finalized for grant application workshops for Byrne grant funds. It is anticipated that the workshops will be scheduled for late February. For information, contact the ODCP office. PH: 517/373-4700.

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)** — The NTIA is providing grant funding for the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIP). Funds are provided for public institutions to establish information networks. Average grants are expected to be roughly \$350,000 and run for 2-3 years. Nonprofits, state, local and tribal governments, and colleges and universities are eligible to apply. The grant deadline date is March 11. For information, contact Stephen J. Downs, TIIP. FAX: 202/482-2048. Web: [www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov)

**Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** — OVC is providing ongoing training and technical assistance to improve services for crime victims. Available training curricula includes community crisis response, hate crime victim treatment, HIV/AIDS and victim services, immigration and cultural considerations, violence intervention programs, and a violence impact forum. A speaker's bureau is also available to supply speakers for conferences. Justice agencies and victims' services organizations are eligible to apply. For information, contact: OVC, Training and Technical Assistance Center, 2277 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850. PH: 800/627-6872. Web: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc)

**US Department of Justice Electronic Newsletter** — JUSTINFO, an electronic newsletter service sponsored by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, is published on the first and fifteenth of each month. It provides the latest criminal justice news, information, services, and publications. JUSTINFO is available on the web at: [www.ncjrs.org/justinfo](http://www.ncjrs.org/justinfo). Go to the on-line version to take advantage of the live links to all the publications and web addresses featured in each issue of the electronic newsletter. To subscribe to JUSTINFO, send the following message to [listproc@ncjrs.org](mailto:listproc@ncjrs.org): subscribe justinfo [insert your name here]

---

## National Center offering free help to improve public access

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Customer Service** — this is the single most important issue regarding public access. Courts must rethink the way they deal with their constituents. Everyone from judges to cashiers must be accountable for the way they treat court users.

**Electronic Public Access** — this topic covers not only the use of kiosk touch screen technology, but also, the effective use of the Internet to provide court information to the public such as important phone numbers, court location and other information.

The level of technical assistance provided by the CSD program will depend on the response and degree of services requested. The NCSC suggests that applications be completed as soon as possible. For information, contact Jim Thomas or Paul Gomez, Court Services Division, National Center for States' Denver office. PH: 303/293-3063. Persons interested in completing an application via the internet should direct their browser to: [www.ncsc.dni.us/CSD/pubacesa.htm](http://www.ncsc.dni.us/CSD/pubacesa.htm)

## Grant writing consultation available from the SCAO

The SCAO will provide assistance to courts in identifying potential sources of funding for specific issues or consultation on grant-writing or grant proposals. If you have questions about any of the grants listed or need grant-related assistance, contact Margie Good, SCAO, at 517/373-5596.

# February

7-9	MAC Winter Conference Holiday Inn South, Lansing	11	CDRP Centers: Permanency Planning Mediation Program Meeting SCAO-Central, Lansing
8	Child Support Coordinating Council SCAO-Central, Lansing	12	Michigan District Judges Ass'n Cooley Law School, Lansing
9	Child Support Formula Subcommittee SCAO-Central, Lansing	16	Michigan Judges Ass'n Meeting University Club, East Lansing
9	Michigan Family Support Council Grady Porter Building, Lansing	17-18	MJI — Top Quality Customer Service Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids
10	Region I & II Juvenile Registers Meeting SCAO-Central, Lansing	18	Referees Ass'n of Michigan Meeting Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing
10	Demonstration Family Division Presentation SCAO-Central, Lansing	19	Legislative FOC System Training SCAO-Central, Lansing
10-11	MJI — Introduction to Juvenile/Domestic Relations Proceedings Sheraton, Ann Arbor	23	UNCPP Task Force Meeting SCAO-Central, Lansing
10-11	Friend of the Court Ass'n Conference Sheraton, Ann Arbor	23-24	MJI — Budgeting and Financial Management Sheraton, Lansing
11	MJI — CD-i Repeat Offender Training Sheraton, Ann Arbor	24-26	MJI — Michigan Leadership Institute Sheraton, Lansing

# March

2 & 3	MJI — Top Quality Customer Service Doubletree Hotel, Novi	12	Court Reporting/Recording Board of Review SCAO, Lansing
4-5	MJI — Handling the Custody Case Involving Allegations of Sexual Abuse Sheraton Hotel, Lansing	12	Court of Appeals Records Production Meeting Court of Appeals, Lansing
5	Michigan Bench/Bar Conference Planning Committee Meeting MJI, Lansing	16 & 17	MJI — Top Quality Customer Service Crowne Plaza Pontchartrain, Detroit
5	Judges Meeting SCAO, Lansing	18	Friend of the Court Advisory Committee SCAO, Lansing
9-11	Supreme Court Oral Arguments G. Mennen Williams Building, Lansing	20	Friend of the Court Ass'n Shoney's, Mt. Pleasant
9	Child Support Formula Subcommittee SCAO, Lansing	23	Michigan Judges Ass'n University Club, East Lansing
10	MJI — District Court Probation Officers: Domestic Violence Seminar Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant	24-26	MJI — New Magistrate Training Sheraton, Lansing
10	Michigan Family Support Council State Bar, Lansing	24-26	MJI — Eliminating Self-Defeating Behaviors Clarion, Kalamazoo
11-12	FCRB — New Volunteer Orientation Training Sheraton, Lansing	25-26	FCRB — New Volunteer Orientation Training Marriott, Southfield
12	Michigan Court Administrators Ass'n Wallies Supper Club, Flint	29-30	MJI — Regional Judicial Seminar Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids
		30	MJI — Top Quality Customer Service Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids
		31	Caseload Review Committee Meeting SCAO, Lansing

Michigan  
Supreme  
Court

# REPORT

Michigan Supreme Court  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517/373-0129

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1200